

Official Copy

SPECIAL SESSION MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

NUMBER 38 DECEMBER 6, 1974

PRESENTMAYOR HARRY W. KELLEY
PRESIDENT ELBRIDGE "NEWT" CROPPERCOUNCILMAN PURNELL
COUNCILMAN GORDY
COUNCILMAN FRAME
COUNCILMAN TRIMPER
COUNCILMAN RICHARDSONIN ATTENDANCE

Attorney Dale Cathell, City Solicitor; Mr. James Gordon, Public Relations Dept.

This Special Session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order by Councilman Harold "Chip" Gordy, Jr., at the request of the Mayor, 9:30 A.M. on December 6, 1974, in the Office of the Mayor at 3rd Street and Baltimore Avenue, in Ocean City, Maryland.

(1) BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Members in attendance: Mrs. Elizabeth Sanford, Chairwoman
Ms. Vicki Rinaldi
Mrs. Susan Frame Bounds
Mrs. Eleanor Kelly
Mrs. Evelyn Mumford
Mrs. Frances Mumford

Councilman Gordy: Mrs. Sanford do you have any business?

Mrs. Sanford: Yes sir we do. We wrote it out and I would like to give each one of you a copy of it. Now if there are any questions on the decision that you gentlemen will have to make when we get through with it? The first part of it we have made our own decision..(Mrs. Sanford is passing out papers)

President Cropper entered the room and proceeded to chair the meeting.

Mrs. Thomas: Is this meeting open to the press Mayor?

Mayor Kelley: It's a Special Meeting, yes. I made the remark the other night that some feathers could be ruffled, they were.

Mrs. Sanford: No, Kelley I tell you, we don't object to anybody objecting to anything we do, but we did think it would be nice if you had at least looked at it first. Or somebody, you know, let us finish what we had started. Now I understand that you all have \$10,000.00 in this years' Christmas budget, which if you have the money to spend is fine and good, but really I think in three weeks time that is a lot of money particularly when there could have been permanent things that could have lasted and been beautiful twelve months out of the year. Everybody is doing this all the time. Now as far as these private businesses are concerned there is nothing to stop them from putting what....or anything they want to put them on or up or around but I don't think the City has the responsibility to businesses. Now we looked at every place, we went to Montego Bay and even the firehall is all on concrete, there is no place to even put anything there and we were told that each thing has to have a separate meter and a separate something else and the price, the estimate that was given us we couldn't possibly concede that anybody would justify that expense. They tell me about 15th Street, it isn't there. In fact, I have a note here from Steve that he can't even put a light on the bridge, the tree at the foot of the bridge or the head of Division Street. I don't understand why not, but the note that was given to me this morning said that this was impossible.

Councilman Trimper: Since I was probably the original feather ruffler can I say that I in noway had any intention of saying anything wrong.....

Mrs. Sanford: Derogatory.

Councilman Trimper: Yes, I was trying to get that out, about what the Beautification Committee was doing, I just meant that maybe we could supplement it until your Program got a little farther along with more trees and all, then maybe some more lighting that we could put up this year to supplement what you were doing until, as you said, it is a long range plan, until the, my feeling was that the trees are beautiful. I saw them when you first put them in up at the 15th Street Firehouse and all but I didn't feel

that in the overall size of a ten mile City that that would be enough Christmas decorations and that was why I brought it up.

Mrs. Sanford: Well, I have checked with a lot of out-of-state places and in-state towns too and I understand the towns when they want to go for expensive decorations they assess the private businesses and they pay for it. That's true for a lot of places, the town itself does not assume that responsibility, but that is not my argument. The things that we really resented was that nobody approached us, they went over our head like we were a bunch of children and didn't know what we were doing and when the statement comes out in the paper that we spent..now we've never heard tell of \$6,000.00. That has never been discussed with us, never been offered to us, all we have ever heard was \$3,000.00 and a portion of it had to be retained to pay for the labor. As far as \$6,000.00 is concerned when it comes out in the paper, it's never been offered to us to spend in anyway. Now when the paper comes out and states that we spent \$6,000.00 to plant six trees that makes us look like a bunch of blabbering idiots. My God, you know we aren't going to do anything like that.

Councilman Trimper: Well, I certainly never made that statement and I don't know who did.

Mrs. Sanford: Well there is a copy of it in the Mayor's...I cut it out of the paper and I put it..did you see it?

Mayor Kelley: No..

President Cropper: There are a lot of things that go in the paper.....

Mrs. Sanford: Well, when it hurts us....

President Cropper: Mrs. Sanford, let me explain one thing here. Speaking of my own intention, I am not speaking for the Council here, but my own intentions the other night for voting in favor of more money was not to take anything away from what the Committee had done but only to expand on it. My personal assumption of what was given us on the Report by Jim Gordon the other night was that there has been \$6,000.00 and the Beautification Committee was willing to spend this money...

Councilman Frame: Now "Newt" I think you misunderstood it.

President Cropper: Maybe I did but I am telling you what it sounded like to me and then they gave us a program, outlined in detail what you all had decided to do and not one person objected on what you were going to do, only on what we could add to it.

Mrs. Sanford: Wouldn't it have been nice to have asked us what we were going to do?

Mayor Kelley: The Mayor has got to take that responsibility, that's right

Mrs. Sanford. This is a mistake and I felt it that night at the meeting.

Mrs. Bounds: Well may I ask something? When you say that you are going to supplement something, to me that means that you are going to supplement it with funds, that you are going to add funds and keep it with the group that's working at the time. You didn't just supplement it, you supplemented it and then you took it from one group and gave it to another group. I mean if you are dissatisfied, how can you be dissatisfied with something that you can't even see? Dissatisfied with something that is not even done, I mean that is ridiculous.

President Cropper: It may be ridiculous but nobody said that they were dissatisfied, that word I don't believe you can find it on the tape dissatisfied.

Mrs. Sanford: Well, I am not going to argue technicalities with you.....

President Cropper: What I am trying to explain to you though is that it wasn't a case of dissatisfaction, it was a case of if we can expand on the Program by using some of our old facilities and somebody said the other night quote "that we bought a lot of new lights last year and can't we use those?" We bought some new lights last year, brand new, why not make use of them? I am sorry and I personally apologize for the Mayor and Council if we have insulted anybody or embarrassed them because that was not our intention. In no way, shape or form was it our intention

Mrs. Sanford: "Newt" let me interrupt you one minute. We were approached to take this Program on and we truly were hesitant to do it but in the wind-up we discussed it and I know we discussed it with Mr. Gordon, the only thing we asked Mr. Frame was the money to pay for it because we were not in a position to pay for it and we had to know where the money was coming from and we didn't want to contract for something we couldn't pay for, that is what it boiled down to. He assured us that it was in the budget and I forgot what I was going to say. What was I going to say Susie?

President Cropper: I think what you are talking about is the money that is there.....

Mrs. Sanford: Oh, the old light. Now we were told that the old lights were dangerous. That the wires were worn, they could fall down and hit somebody and

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electrocute them and the Town would be sued. Well now we were not going to be any party to that because you'd say bunch of God ... loonies putting these things up and that is what you all would have said. So we said forget the old stuff and we also said, when we agreed to take it, that we would on one condition; that there be a little beauty and permanency and the money would be well spent because we were told these things last year cost \$75.00 a pole. Now I hear that they are \$125.00. We need beautiful lights here at City Hall and my gosh for \$250.00 you could buy some handsome copper permanent lights. Now I know they are not Christmas lights but they are going to be there for a number of years and we haven't had the money to spend for that and we know that's needed here. So we couldn't visualize just throwing money away for three weeks when so many...in other words we thought first things were first and that's it. Now we are not here to argue with anybody.

President Cropper: We appreciate that thought and I hope you understand our thoughts upon it too.

Mrs. Sanford: You didn't consult us and that is the thing we have never understood.

President Cropper: Well we were given a report and here again, the assumption from the report was that this had been discussed with you all.

Mrs. Sanford: What, to take it away from us?

President Cropper: Oh no.

Mrs. Sanford: Or to do something in addition to or something we don't know?

President Cropper: No, what the report said and what we had assumed had been discussed with you all, \$6,000.00 or what have you....(President Cropper and

Mrs. Sanford both talking at once)

President Cropper: Let's go back, what is this \$6,000.00 that she's talking about Jim? (Jim Gordon-Public Relations)

Mr. Gordon: That's the total item under Community Promotion under the item of Christmas lighting.

Mrs. Sanford: Well we have never heard of anything over \$3,000.00.

Councilman Frame: The balance goes for labor to put these up because our Department is charged with the \$6,000.00 figure.

Councilman Gordy: \$3,000.00 for lights and \$3,000.00 for labor?

Mrs. Sanford: No sir, it has never been discussed with us for that way. Mr. Gordon did you ever discuss \$6,000.00 for us to have?

Mr. Gordon: I may have said to you that I had six in my budget but you and I have never talked about any figure but \$3,000.00 and the reason for that is that always in the past when Steve has gone up the bridge and gone up the street he's put in the time for the guys that did it. I didn't know how much it was, we never know from year to year just what they are going to run into and I figured with labor being what it was, the safest thing to do would be to hold out \$3,000.00 to do the dome and to do the bridge and give you the other three.

Mrs. Sanford: But you told me that was going to come out of our \$3,000.00.

Mr. Gordon: What?

Mrs. Sanford: You told me that you were delighted that we had kept it down this way because that left ample money to do that, out of the \$3,000.00.

Mr. Gordon: That's true, but in any of these things, no matter what you are talking about, part of it has got to go for hardware and part of it has got to go for labor. I was assuming that what you wanted done would take a little bit of labor from the Town. I don't remember putting any strings on the \$3,000.00, I just said this is what you can work.....

Mrs. Sanford: You don't remember talking with me that you were delighted because of the way that we had spent the money?

Mr. Gordon: Oh yes, I said that would leave money over to do.....

Mrs. Sanford: And that there should be, out of the three, money left to do the electrical work because you told me that the City, even though they did it, charge it against the Department and that you had to have that money and that could come out of our three.

Mr. Gordon: That's true, I did say that. I said it is a good thing that you didn't spend the whole three thousand on just materials because you would need something for the labor to install the material, I remember that. You came out, if I recall, with about half of that.

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Mrs. Sanford: And I also said, made the statement that if it cost this much every year to do this stuff then why isn't a portion of this money allotted to put in a permanent connection so each year where the lights are, they are going to be in the same spot, they can just go there and plug it in instead of this overall expenditure each year. It is a ridiculous waste of money to me, that much money going when it could be permanent and to put the stuff in so that when the lights are ready each year at Christmas. If you say the 4th of July you want to plug them in, you plug them in and it's there.

Mr. Gordon: You see, we are working with a situation that has been going a long time. When Earl was here as Clerk-Treasurer he handled the thing practically personally. He and Steve worked together and got the lights up, nobody questioned it, it just got done. Now the Town has grown, the Departments have grown, we've become fragmented a little bit and we still are stuck with this old system where we have one Department that spends the money, another Department that does the labor and another Department that actually plans it. What we should have and what I would like to see happen is to have one group and I was hoping it would be Beautification to be in charge of this and to work directly with it and if the funds have to come from community promotion I think that is perfectly.....

Mrs. Sanford: An electrician, no matter who pays him, he is only going to charge so much so why do you do the same thing every year instead of doing it in a permanent position?

Councilman Frame: I don't think those poles are ours Mrs. Sanford, I know they are not so they allow us to hook-on our temporary service just for the Christmas season.

Mrs. Sanford: Well, we were told that a meter has to go.....

Councilman Frame: Yes, that's right, a meter and a switch box.....

Mrs. Sanford: A meter box and all that stuff?

Councilman Frame: Yes, they are on the poles temporarily.

Mrs. Sanford: Does that apply to the Route 50 Bridge and Division Street and the firehall and those places?

Councilman Frame: The one at the firehall could be.....

Councilman Purnell: A meter will cost you two hundred.

Councilman Richardson: Do you mean a meter for every set of lights

Councilman Trimper: All the way down the street and they had one meter on it.....

President Cropper: Mrs. Sanford, let me ask you this? I think you all understand, I hope you do, our point the other night was only to expand on what was already given to us and let me ask you all, we're not here to be argumentative or to have you argue with us because we meant nothing offensive the other night and the only thing we want to do is expand on the program for Christmas lighting. Now we didn't ask the Mayor to give more money, we did at that time instruct Mr. Gordon to go ahead and make use of what lights we had that were workable in addition to what your program did. Let me ask you this? Nothing I am sure has actually taken place at this point, what could we do or what would be satisfactory.....

Councilman Frame: Something has taken place.

President Cropper: What?

Councilman Frame: Mr. Gordon has ordered some lights.

President Cropper: O.K., what could we do or what would be satisfactory to the Committee?

Mrs. Sanford: Well as far as the lighting system is concerned we feel that we are not qualified for that. That's been proven to us, so we absolutely disassociate ourselves from that.

President Cropper: This is the street lighting?

Mrs. Sanford: Any Christmas lights, we don't want any part of that because it's obvious even before we got started that we got trampled on. We don't feel that we are qualified to spend that amount of money for something that we don't approve of. Not particularly when we have been working on a five thousand budget on permanent stuff here in the City and around Town. I don't want to say what I am thinking because it doesn't sound nice.

Mrs. Bounds: You are thinking of five thousand a year opposed to ten thousand for two or three weeks.

Mrs. Sanford: Three weeks. We obviously are not qualified to spend this kind of money. We thought we had a good name and we were very jealous of it and we are jealous of what we have done and we don't want to be a part of anything that looks, to us, and tinsel and garbage does.

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Councilman Trimper: Well isn't that what Christmas is in every city in the country?

Mrs. Sanford: No, I checked. Weren't you here and heard me say that most of the places have a downtown association and they use their own money.....

Councilman Trimper: I wasn't speaking of the money, I was speaking of the decorations. Don't most cities, I know I very seldom ever travel through any town at Christmas that doesn't have street lighting or.....

Mrs. Bounds: Have you ever been to Williamsburg at Christmas?

Councilman Trimper: I haven't been there at Christmas, I've been there other times.

Mrs. Bounds: Washington, D.C. has small twinkle lights. New York City, all around Madison Square Garden is all done in white lights.

Councilman Purnell: On trees Susan, running across.....

Mrs. Bounds: They don't run those different colored lights across the streets. They put a green laurel effect on some of the poles. But as far as areas like Madison Square Garden, Rockefeller Center and those type areas, they are all done in white twinkle lights. They even drape the trees that have lost all their leaves for the winter, but there are none of those big gaudy looking lights, carnival lights.

Mrs. Sanford: (Cannot discern, inaudible)

President Cropper: Yes.

Mrs. Sanford: Well, to me that was beautiful and of course that is just my opinion.

Councilman Frame: I like the front of here too.

Mayor Kelley: Do you want a great big Christmas tree? Ollie Powell saw me this morning, do you know Ollie? He has one bigger than this room and covers over half of this size if the Beautification Committee wants it.

Mrs. Sanford: Do you mean with roots or without roots?

Mayor Kelley: You probably could get it dug.

Mrs. Bounds: That means it can be replanted.

Mayor Kelley: Or maybe for a temporary thing cut it. Let me go back, if I may, and tell you exactly how I feel. I think I have that reputation, good or bad, I have to agree with you Mrs. Sanford. I am very jealous of the Beautification Committee and I have been extremely proud of it, I think it has done a of a job. I am disturbed about the differences between the Mayor and City Council now and the Beautification Committee and maybe these things have to happen in life. They do everywhere else, I have arguments and I want to get back to it and say that I do feel, and for once in my life I think I was right, I said your feathers would get ruffled over this, the Committee's, all seven members and they did. I do feel that it was handled badly and I have to accept the responsibility and I do readily because I thought this could happen and we should without taking that vote the other night, I think there was a little bit of thought with respect to Public Relations, I don't think we were completely orientated that you all had been given these duties completely until it came out the other night. I feel that this maybe was a little bit at fault but the Mayor is going to take all the fault and try to get the out of the hole this morning. Because you all have done a tremendous job and it is just going to show up in five or six years and I don't want to kill that enthusiasm that you all have had. Christ you've gotten down on your knees, you have put the bulbs in, you're putting the trees in, you're doing the planting and we have got to get back on an even keel. We should have gone through you. This is the mistake that the Mayor and City Council made, to sit there the other night and the Mayor finally they jammed it down there and I accepted it. I said yes, go ahead and spend the four thousand.

Mrs. Sanford: How did it taste?

Mayor Kelley: Not good this morning. Terrible, I would rather be out there taking a dip in the bay but I am taking it here. It won't be the first and it won't be the last but we are down to the point Elizabeth of resolving it and I don't think, because I certainly don't want to kill your enthusiasm and your spirit that you all have had, the time that you've given and what it is going to amount to for this City. I have been as proud of it as anything that this Administration has started and I think the Council will agree. The Mayor and City Council are wrong in their approach to it, I don't give a hoot what anybody says, we were wrong in our approach. When the Liaison Councilmen have a problem we go to them with it and we should have been to this Committee.

Councilman Trimper: Mayor, I think that until Mr. Gordon got half-way through his talk, I personally and I don't know about the other Councilmen, didn't know that the Beautification Committee was in charge

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Mayor Kelley: This is part of the problem. The Council was not aware that this had been turned over to the Beautification Committee.

Councilman Richardson: I think the whole problem that we have right here is just a lack of communications. I want to tell you one thing right now, my only feeling that night was that I didn't think it was fair to take the money out of that budget for the permanent trees. I thought it was unfair to the Committee to have to use that money for a permanent installation out of a Christmas fund and that was one of my thoughts when we put the extra money in the project.

Mrs. Sanford: But you see they are there every year for the same purpose. We were perfectly happy when we only thought we had part of the three thousand dollars because like I say we figured there is a lot of years coming up so what we do we'll do beautifully while we do it and it would never have crossed my mind to say to you gentlemen give us ten thousand dollars. I would have thought you would think I was crazy and frankly I would have thought so.

Mayor Kelley: What do we do to get rid of this last paragraph?

Mrs. Sanford: In the first place we are not unhappy with our beautification. Neither do we have from our standpoint any desire to divorce ourselves from it, but we have got to know if we are pleasing, is what we do satisfactory or are we going to run into this problem again? We are willing to take up anything we do and show anybody in black and white anytime what we are going to do but we have to know if we are doing right or if we are doing wrong.....

Mayor Kelley: You are doing right. Like I say it is a lack of communication as Josh says, Mayor and City Council takes full responsibility of this lack of communication because we should have come through your Committee. Right or wrong we should have come through your Committee and if we disagreed we would tell you. But now we are down to the point of resolving it. I want you to strike this last.....

Mrs. Sanford: Now we have left the decision up to you Mayor. It is your decision, we've only asked the question, we haven't said we will resign, we are asking do you want us?

Mayor Kelley: I would pay you \$5,000.00 a year if I had the money to stay on...

Mrs. Sanford: I'd take it. Let me tell you all while we are on this.....

Mayor Kelley: Let's get this resolved right now. What satisfies you all, there are seven of you? The only person that isn't here is my Aunt. Why didn't my Aunt come in here, can't she face her Nephew?

Mrs. Sanford: Kelley, give the devil their dues, they went to Cherry Hill this week and she said if they got back she would be here, so being she isn't here she didn't get back.

Mayor Kelley: All right, what satisfies you?

Mrs. Sanford: All we want to know is it satisfactory? Also, we want where we have been put quote me in quote a bunch of blabbering idiots to spend \$6,000.00 on six --- --- trees, we want that retracted publicly...(Everybody talking at once) put in better light.

Mayor Kelley: Elizabeth, I don't believe that.

Mrs. Sanford: Believe what?

Mayor Kelley: I don't believe that you have to be put in a better light.

Mrs. Sanford: Kelley, somebody is going to read that and think we have spent.....

Mayor Kelley: Well I certainly didn't and I don't think any member of this Council.....

Mrs. Sanford: How about the people outside?

Mayor Kelley: No, the Mayor gets the complaints, you know that don't you? The Mayor has had nothing and I think the Council will concur Elizabeth and I mean it sincerely, this is going to be one of the greatest things, you all are going to be proud of it but the City is going to be even more proud. The Mayor is very, very concerned, like I said, I am as proud of this Committee as anything that has happened under this Administration and I do not want to do anything to deter your enthusiasm because that will wane eventually.

Mrs. Sanford: Not necessarily.

Mayor Kelley: Yes it will.

Mrs. Sanford: Well let me get back to something now. If anybody questions why there is nothing going on at City Hall, until we get a letter of approval from that state thing they will not pay for anything that is done here.

Mayor Kelley: Mayor and City Council is not questioning that because we know what bureaucracy is.

Mrs. Sanford: We haven't got the money but they have given us the go ahead, in part, that we will be covered if we are finally approved and that is why we have started on that.

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Because 75 cents for a, you know, the ratio three to one, is a lot to come back and it boils down to this. If we get this we will be able to do everything that is in these plans and if there is any

Mayor Kelley: I might bristle the Council's feathers with this but I mean this and they know just exactly how I have tried to run this City through the Department Heads and the Liaison Councilmen. And inasmuch as the Public Relations Department saw fit, which I would buy, that they gave the responsibility of decorating and lighting this City to your Committee, I feel at this minute that it should come back to your Committee and this \$4,000.00 should be yours to spend if Mr. Gordon can't get out of his contract about the lights, but I feel that you all should concur with what the is done and the Council can take it from there.

Councilman Frame: I would like to say something in behalf of Public Relations since I am their Liaison. I don't see where I should come before the Council for every ... dime we put in that budget so we spent it the way we saw fit. As I said the other night, this was a judgement decision, we made it and we are stuck with it.

Mayor Kelley: Well, now it is back to that Mr. Frame.

Councilman Frame: As far as I am concerned we did right.

Mayor Kelley: This is the way the City is got to run.

Councilman Frame: I don't want to come here for every five cents we spend out of our budget.

Mayor Kelley: It is back to that. To allowing the Beautification Committee to either handle it or get rid of it, take it away from them. You are going to do one of the two.

Mrs. Sanford: We have no hard feelings about that not being under us because we were reluctant to take it in the first place.

Mayor Kelley: Well, it is going to be the decision of the Council to either let you handle it or take it away from you.

Mrs. Sanford: Our feathers are not ruffled about that because it is nothing but work and perhaps satisfaction. Now Beautification that is another story.

Councilman Trimper: Couldn't you continue to do the permanent trees? Why would you not want to do that? I think they are beautiful but why would you want to take it away or why couldn't you continue.....

Mrs. Sanford: The primary thing was that we sort of had a long-range overall plan, but staying within a certain type thing and

Councilman Trimper: My feelings were that until there were a few more of the trees, maybe we ought to do something in the meantime to supplement it so that the City would not look as dark as it did last Christmas. It was a pretty dreary Christmas around here last year.

President Cropper: Mrs. Sanford, let me ask you this. I don't think there is any doubt in anybody's mind the intention the other night and also what they want the Beautification Committee to feel and that is that we feel you have done one fine job. I don't believe there has ever been anything in the paper about the Beautification Committee other than the other day which I am sorry that it was that way because it wasn't presented that way, but complementary things. I have never heard anything else from any person, persons, groups or organizations or the press up until this last thing in the Maryland Coast Press. I think it is resolved and the Council correct me if I am wrong, about how we feel about the Beautification Committee so if we can get that by here just a minute they were talking about actually you only have three thousand dollars, is that correct?

Mrs. Sanford: We have never heard of over three thousand dollars but we could not spend all of it.

President Cropper: All right. Let's assume that three or whatever you have.....

Councilman Trimper: You can spend all of it as far as I am concerned.

President Cropper: The other night, assuming to what the Mayor had to say he is still in agreement to the four, would you be willing to take the whole package and spend it the way you would like?

Mrs. Bounds: (To Mrs. Sanford) Take it.

Mrs. Sanford: This year it is just too late. I think to spend the money just to spend a lot of money at the last minute.....

President Cropper: You don't have to spend any of it if you don't want, but what we are saying is that we would like for you to know is that we want to put a lot of emphasis on Christmas and if you don't want to spend but \$2500.00 that suits us fine.

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Mrs. Sanford: Let me ask you this question "Newt"? With the problem like it is with your electricity and getting it to the sources and all, the fact that you should only spend it on City owned or controlled property, do you realize how remissive you are?

President Cropper: No mam, I really don't. To be honest with you all reports have been the case of let's get our Christmas lights going and carry it over to Steve and Steve took care of it.

Mrs. Sanford: We have been on every piece of property, personally, us girls, that the City has and looked it over. We were told there is no electricity and they tell me there is no practical way to do it.

President Cropper: Who were you speaking with now, the Electric Company or Steve?

Mrs. Sanford: Steve.

President Cropper: Steve, well this would help us a lot if you will be able to say when you leave here today, we'll take the whole program, we don't have to worry about any of them. Our opinion the other night was, or my opinion was and I still think it was the Council's too, that part of it be given to you all but I did not realize that the whole project of the Christmas decorations for the City was left up to the Beautification Committee. But we would love that and would be willing to give you the four thousand and if you don't want to spend it we certainly could use it somewhere else. If you don't want to take it at all and stay with your original three we would like to resolve this thing.

Mrs. Sanford: Well that is something that is not my decision to make. The rest of the girls have equal voice with me.

Councilman Gordy: Let me say something, I was just sort of holding back, but I would just like to reiterate that it seems to me that what happened the other night was that it came up that we wanted to do some expanse of the Christmas decorations, that they were not going to be done otherwise, then I found out later and almost today that the Beautification Committee was going to do it. But Mrs. Sanford, of course, the City is very proud of what you have done and I have seen the lights right here at City Hall and what I would like to suggest is a compromise perhaps. A way out of this is the planning that you are making and the trees that you are putting up has given the Beautification Committee the right and the obligation and the duty to decorate them in anyway they wish.

Councilman Trimper: And the money.

Councilman Gordy: And the money to decorate them in any way they wish. I am against them and I said so at the meeting. I am against these strings of lights across the streets and if the City wants to do that let the City do that but you beautify and decorate what you have put together.

Councilman Frame: The Public Relations Department has already done that.

Councilman Gordy: I know that because the Council voted to do it. That is neither here nor there but what I am saying is that you allow them the plans and decorations that they want for what they planned and we will give them the money to do it.

President Cropper: Would you like to make a motion that we turn over the money that was appropriated the other night to the Beautification Committee

Councilman Richardson: Let me ask Jim, how much of the \$4,000.00 have you got committed now at this point?

Mr. James Gordon: I have committed around \$2800.00.

Councilman Trimper: What did you order Jim?

Mr. Gordon: I ordered 24 of those same pole units that we used on the bridge and the 62nd Street Bridge in the north end last year.

Councilman Trimper: These are the small trees that go on the pole, is that right?

Mr. Gordon: Just to go on the pole. 12 of those are due here in twenty minutes and the other 12 are due if they can get them, in time to get them up for Christmas but they haven't promised me but 12.

Councilman Trimper: And this is just the small white tree?

Mr. Gordon: No, it is a green tree with a red base and a gold top and it is outlined with bulbs at night and then there is this plastic garland that you see in the daytime.

Councilman Trimper: And they were bought new last year?

Mr. Gordon: We bought about 20 of those last year and.....

Councilman Trimper: They were put up and never lighted.

Mr. Gordon: That's right.

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Councilman Gordy: Mrs. Sanford, do you need more money to decorate your areas for your planting?

Mrs. Sanford: This year?

Councilman Gordy: Yes.

Mrs. Sanford: No.

Councilman Gordy: Well then, why don't we just let it stay the way it is this year and next year you can come back and tell us what you want.....

Mrs. Sanford: No, because frankly we have done what there is for electricity to go to. There is no point in putting up something.....

Councilman Gordy: Well we can cooperate with you and try to get some electricity or.....

Mrs. Sanford: No, not if there are no facilities there.

Councilman Richardson: Now I am not saying that Steve is not qualified to know where electricity is, but I think before you shut the door on that you ought to get Tip Quillen from the Electric Company to go with you to these different places because I don't believe that there is no electric available on some of these sites.

Mrs. Sanford: You know the strip that you gentlemen own, the Town owns, up at the new bridge, we were told there was a space in there. Now we went to look at that then we were told that the Chamber of Commerce possibly are going to put something there. We couldn't see spending \$500.00 there and next year having it torn up. That is why we have knocked that off plus the condition that that is a State Road tie in and you have to get permission from them to put lights or whatever you put there. I understand, I did not check it past that point, we would have to put a meter there too and so we knocked it down for two reasons. The unavailability of the electricity and the fact that what was done there this year could be destroyed next year. I didn't think that was practical but maybe you are not suppose to work in a practical manner.

Mayor Kelley: What you are down to gentlemen, it is very simple, you are down to the point that the Council overrode the decision of the Public Relations Department. You are down to allowing Mr. Frame to run his Department and working in conjunction with the Beautification Committee and it is just that simple. That is what you are down to and that is the way you run your City. You deviated from it the other night in overriding them, in which there was a lack of communication.....

President Cropper: I don't believe that was the intent.

Mayor Kelley: No, that wasn't the intent but that is exactly what happened in essence. You maybe were uneducated and incommunicado as to what had happened previously. That is exactly what you did, you would not appreciate it in the Water Department I bet. So you are back to that, that is what you are down to, to allowing Mr. Frame and Jim Gordon to run that Department and in working conjunction with the Beautification Committee.

Councilman Trimper: Mayor, the main understanding that I got, even from Mr. Gordon, was that their main problem was lack of funds and I think that what we were trying to do was supplement their funds for this.....

Councilman Frame: You wanted lights.

Councilman Trimper: Right, I did want lights and I still want lights and I have had a awful lot of people in this Town say that they wanted lights and I imagine some of the rest of you want them.

Councilman Richardson: In all fairness I think there is a lack of communication right between your two departments. Between the Beautification Committee and the Public Relations Department. (All Councilmen talking at once)

President Cropper: Well let's stop this back and forth bit.

Mayor Kelley: You are down to making the decision of letting your Public Relations work with the Beautification Committee to iron this thing out.

President Cropper: Let me ask you this. Would you the Council be willing to turn the entire project over to the Beautification Committee with the allotment if they want to use or if they don't want to use it they just give it back to the City?

Councilman Frame: We have already committed twenty eight hundred of it.....

Mayor Kelley: Well you have to live with that now.....

Mrs. Sanford: May I make a suggestion? As far as this year is concerned really, we have done, other then the lights on the things, we have committed for these individual places to be landscaped and you've got the price there and the lights are downstairs in my car because we are going to present them to Mr. Gordon. I put those on out there but I am not going to put any more on, it is too cold.

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Mayor Kelley: It is hot enough in here.

Mrs. Sanford: We can't uproot our trees and you can't disregard what he has ordered so let everybody put everything they got up and intergrate it and let it all hang out this year and maybe we will feel happier next year and we can get together with somebody so we won't be going through this again. I am going to tell you the truth, under any conditions, I still do not approve of \$125.00 for every pole. No matter if I am on any committee or just sitting up at 6th Street and reading that paper I would say my God they have lost all the sense they had.

Mayor Kelley: I personally knew of your feelings on that.

Mrs. Sanford: So everybody is committed on something and it is not right to go back on any committment.

Mayor Kelley: If you can live with it, we can too.

Mrs. Sanford: We can live with that but on the other thing, we really want to know the feelings.....

President Cropper: We will ask the Maryland Coast Press for a retraction. Now please understand that we cannot demand any thing, but we certainly will ask the Maryland Coast Press, or if you would like to write it yourself, I would be glad to present it to them.

Mrs. Sanford: I have been writing until three o'clock in the morning for three nights and I am tired of writing.

President Cropper: All right. We will ask the Maryland Coast Press to please inform the public of the true facts.

Mrs. Sanford: Now naturally if we are approached by anybody, we don't want you all to think we are offensive, but we are going to explain our position.

President Cropper: Sure, that is no problem.

Mrs. Sanford: Because I think we are entitled.....

President Cropper: I am glad we had the opportunity to explain ours because I think that allowing this assumption.....

Mayor Kelley: If you think it will help Elizabeth call them a bunch of S.O.B. (All of Council talking at once)

Councilman Richardson: I think it is the first time in ^{the} history of the Council that seven men agreed to \$4,000.00.....(All Council talking at once)

Mayor Kelley: I was reluctant to give it up.

Councilman Richardson: I know you were.

Mrs. Sanford: Now the next time you see us we might be after money and thank you all.

Mayor Kelley: I am glad you are happy again.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

Kathy V. Cropper
Kathy V. Cropper
Secretary

Regular Session #3

January 20, 1975
Meeting approved as dated
above